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Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01

IO-11 /094 W
---------- 058226
P R 091349Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8455
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT PASS AALC NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET
SUBJECT: PMAC RELEASES 97 DETAINEES

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA OF MARCH 8 AND 9 CARRY EPMG ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 97 DETAINEES WERE RELEASED ON MARCH 8. THE 97, "WHO WERE ARRESTED ON VARIOUS CHARGES FROM TIME TO TIME", WERE RELEASED UNDER A GENERAL AMNESTY GRANTED BY THE EPMG.

2. AMONG THOSE RELEASED WERE ATO BEYENE SOLOMON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CELU, ATO FISSAHA-TSION TEKEA, FORMER SECGEN OF CELU, ATO GIDAY GEBRU, FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT OF CELU, ATO MARKOS HAGOS, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE NOW-DEFUNCT PRO-VISIONAL COMMITTEE OF CELU, AND ATO KASSAHUN BISRAT, FORMER
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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

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OTHERS RELEASED INCLUDED LT. COLONEL IMRU WONDE, ATO
DAMTE ASSEMAHAGN, LT. (CHAPLAIN) ZEWDE DESTA, ATO GETA-
CHEW TADESSE AND CAPT. ATNAFU MAKONNEN. EMBASSY BIO INFO
SHOWS IMRU WONDE TO BE A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER, DAMTE
A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM, GETACHEW
AN EMPLOYEE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CAPT.
ATNAFU A FORMER ASSISTANT MINISTER OF THE MILITARY OF IN-
FORMATION IN CHARGE OF THE PRESS DEPARTMENT. NO OTHER
NAMES WERE RELEASED.

3. USIS FSL WHO HAS SEEN ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY LIST OF
THOSE RELEASED STATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 70 ARE LABOR
UNION MEMBERS ARRESTED IN SEPT/OCT 1975 FOLLOWING ABORTIVE
GENERAL STRIKE. REMAINDER OF NAMES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPT
AS AVAILABLE. COMMENT: EPMG HAS BEEN UNDER INCREAS-
ING PRESSURE, (SEE MARCH 1 FBIS DAILY REPORT) INCLUDING FROM
UNDERGROUND PAMPHLETEERS, TO RELEASE FORMER CELU AND TEA-
CHERS ASSOCIATION LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN DETAINED
WITHOUT CHARGES FOR ALMOST 18 MONTHS FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE NAMED.
ACCORDINGLY, THIS MAY BE ANOTHER EFFORT BY PMAC TO QUIET ITS
VOCAL CRITICS ON THE LEFT, I.E. SOME LABOR UNION MEMBERS AND IN-
TELLECTUALS AND MANY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. IRONICALLY, THESE
ORIGINAL CELU LEADERS NAMED ABOVE, WERE ANTI-OLD REGIME LIBERALS
WHO PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE AMEMABLE TO WORKING IN THE DI-
RECTION PMAC IS CURRENTLY GOING THAN THE RADICALS WHO RE-
PLACE THEM IN THE INTERIM PROVISIONS COMMITTEE OF CELU, NOW
ALSO DISBANDED. EMBASSY HAS NO RELIABLE INFORMATION AS
TO TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE STILL UNDER DETENTION, BUT WE
ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBERS TO BE AT LEAST SEVERAL HUNDRED AND
POSSIBLY AS HIGH AS A FEW THOUSAND.

DECON UPON RECEIPT
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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